



Guidelines For Habitat Improvement Projects

	Gambel's Quail <i>Callipepla gambelii</i>	Scaled Quail <i>Callipepla squamata</i>	Mearns' Quail <i>Cyrtonix montezumae</i>	Masked Bobwhite <i>Colinus virginianus ridgwayi</i>
Statewide Distribution				
Space	Brushy drainages dominated by mesquite, acacia, palo verde, skunkbush, littleleaf sumac, and various cactus species	Mixed desert grasslands or shrublands with open, level-to-rolling habitat. Avoids pure grasslands, particularly stands of introduced aggressive grass species	Heavily tied to oak-grassland or pine-grassland savannahs	Floodplains of riparian areas and grassy plains. Prefer dense stands of perennial grasses
Diet	Seeds, insects including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● prickly pear ● deervetches, ● filaree ● mesquite seeds and leaves ● jojoba seeds ● tansymustards ● ragweeds 	Seeds, insects including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● milkvetch ● morning glory ● deervetch ● lupine ● snakeweed ● Russian thistle ● seeds of woody plants like mesquite, acacias and spiny hackberry ● various grass seeds 	Bulbs, tubers, insects including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● yellow nutsedge ● Gray's woodsorrel ● acorns 	Seeds, insects including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● gramas ● three-awn ● legumes, ● Johnson grass



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Key Plants for loafing, roosting, and nesting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> wolfberry desert thorn desert or spiny hackberry Fremont barberry live oak catclaw acacia grasses for nesting cover 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> areas that lack high interspersion of shrubs grasses and forbs bare ground; roost and nest on ground nests are usually associated with bunch grass and a guard object, such as prickly pear or yucca 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> perennial bunchgrass species associated with slope or adjacent ground structure such as a tree or a boulder are most often used for nesting cover high grass diversity and grass cover tree overstory of oak or pine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> snakeweed mesquite coarse bunch grasses; diversity is very important
% of Tree or Brush Canopy Cover	>40%	10-25%, brush cover less than 5 feet tall	25-50%, tree cover	10-30%
% of Grass Canopy Cover	30-50%	30-50%	>60%	12-15%
Distance Between Cover	40-50 yards	60 yards	5-15 yards	50-75 yards
% of Annual Growth Grazed	<50%	<50%	<50%	10%
Home Range and Movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-94 acres per covey maximum yearly movement of coveys usually less than 1.2 mi 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> winter ranges vary from 175.4 to 519.0 acres in western Texas summer ranges are larger, with a reported range of 719.1 to 2,179.5 acres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14.9 acres per covey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> averaged 4 acres per covey generally exhibit short-distance movements
Breeding Season	Spring and summer, heavily dependent on winter rainfall	Spring after wet winters and after monsoons started	After summer monsoon	June-August, depending on rain



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